

**SUMMARY OF THE NEWS.****Today's Weather.**

Washington, December 17.—East Texas—Partly cloudy Thursday; probably showers in the interior; warmer on the coast; light east to southeast winds. Friday probably showers.

Arkansas—Fair Thursday and Friday.

West Texas—Partly cloudy Thursday; probably rain in extreme west portion. Friday fair.

Oklahoma, and Indian Territory—Fair Thursday; probably rain at night or Friday.

New Mexico—Cloudy Thursday; probably snow and rain in south portion; Friday fair.

Mississippi—Fair Thursday; increasing clouds Friday; probably showers; light to fresh east winds.

Alabama—Fair Thursday. Friday increasing clouds; light north to east winds.

Louisiana—Fair Thursday. Friday probably showers; light to fresh east winds.

Observations taken by the United States weather bureau at 8 p. m., seventy-fifth meridian time:

	Temperature	Rain.	State of
	Mins.	Min.	Wind.
Athens	55	28	Clear
Amarillo	42	28	Clear
Atlanta	45	34	Clear
Baltimore	40	45	Clear
Bethel	36	12	Clear
Dodge City	29	4	Clear
El Paso	32	28	Cloudy
Galveston	54	44	Clear
Hartford	50	36	Clear
Kansas City	36	16	Clear
Montgomery	32	30	Clear
Nashville	50	35	Clear
North Platte	54	32	Clear
Oklahoma	54	28	Clear
Omaha	50	12	Clear
Palo Alto	50	30	Cloudy
St. Louis	46	26	Clear
St. Paul	30	12	Pt. cloudy
Vicksburg	54	30	Clear

**VENEZUELA.**

Formal notification of the blockade of the Venezuelan coast may be issued today, and, according to the Germans, "United States ships will be on precisely the same basis as those of other nations."

Another Italian cruiser has been ordered to Venezuela. The Italian majority has left Caracas.

Great Britain and Germany will say that Castro's offer to arbitrate is inadequate on account of the lack of guarantees to par-

ties. Orders to Denver from the navy department: "Send competent officer with dispatch in torpedo boat destroyer to Caracas to assist Minister Bowen."

Orders to Commander Biagi at La Guaya: "Send expedient officer as assistant to Minister Bowen."

It is believed the navy department is guarding against an interruption in the cable.

Carcass—Indications are that Venezuela will yield to the demands of the allies.

The "leading citizens" of Caracas have petitioned President Castro to give full powers to United States Minister Bowen to effect a termination of the present diffi-

culty. Castro's secretary states: "Bankers, business, society and clergy, approve the government's attitude and order President Castro their aid unreservedly."

Dewey is awaiting orders for the distribution and readvancement of his fleet.

No comment is made by the state department as to the detention of the battleship Wisconsin at San Francisco.

The United States still not recall a war blockade of the Venezuelan coast and Roosevelt is expected, ultimately, to issue a proclamation of neutrality.

Premier Belfous says there is no such thing as a "powerful blockade," that the allies are at war with Venezuela and that official notice will shortly be given to the powers.

Belfous says: "Neutrals are not exempted from the influence of a few iron men."

The allies will treat the ships of the United States the same as those of all other neutral nations."

The Mexican Herald says the Monroe doctrine is receiving a sharp test, and El Pais vigorously sustains Roosevelt and denounces Castro.

Germany again accuses the British commander of suggesting the boundaries.

The Berlin foreign office advocates more severe measures than the original plan contemplated.

M. Thiele, formerly France's minister to Venezuela, says Caracas is impregnable and that Castro can put 400,000 men in the field.

Italians in Venezuela do not uphold the action of their government.

The French steamer Ossun has been returned to its owners.

Venezuela desires to arbitrate her difficulties, if possible, and the Washington officials hope they may, as a climax is shared.

The state department intimates that Minister Bowen is not acceptable to the allies as an arbitrator.

Castro has transformed his country into an armed camp.

British statesmen are aroused, and have discovered that American diplomacy forced the powers into the imbroglio, thereby excluding all European trade from Venezuela.

**DOMESTIC.**

Colonel "Bob" Bobo of Bobo, Miss., a prominent planter and famous hunter, is dead.

The Kentucky court of appeals has granted

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"Jim" Howard, convicted of the murder of Goebel, a new trial. The food situation in Tennessee and Mississippi has been relieved.

A serious conflict between the races occurred in Indiana, and the negroes are terror stricken.

**WASHINGTON.**

Special Agent Evans of El Paso, Texas, reports the seizure of \$24,000 worth of diamonds, smuggled from England via New York.

China's next installment of the Boxer indemnity will be paid in silver.

The fuel question is the burning issue in Washington.

No work is being done toward killing out the water hyacinths in Texas.

**CONGRESS.**

During consideration of the legislative appropriation bill, Representative Bartlett (Dem., Ga.) wheeled both sides into line on an amendment to appropriate \$250,000 to enforce the antitrust law.

Hepburn's substitute, making \$300,000 immediately available to enforce the Sherman law, was agreed to without division.

The senate passed the pension and urgent deficiency bills, aggregating \$140,995,400.

Washington, December 17.—Mr. Bartlett (Dem., Ga.), during consideration of the legislative appropriation bill, without wangling, sprang an amendment to appropriate \$250,000 to enforce the Sherman antitrust law and to direct the attorney general to proceed to the prosecution of all violators of the law. Although such a provision was plainly amenable to a point of order, not a member of either side of the house raised objection. Both sides wheeled into line and all agreed that some such action was advisable. Some of the republicans, however, raised objection to the looseness of the language of the amendment and Mr. Hepburn (Iowa) offered as a substitute the language of the bill he had introduced on the opening of the session to appropriate \$300,000 for the enforcement of the law. This was further

strengthened to make the appropriation immediately available and, so amended, the substitute was agreed to without division.

The senate passed the pension bill, aggregating \$300,847,000, and an urgent deficiency bill carrying \$1,148,400.

The militia bill was up for a short time and Senator Baughman attacked section 24 relative to a reserve force of trained men.

On Saturday Senator Morgan will speak on the Isthmian canal question.

**FOREIGN.**

Seed: The United States has demanded the return of \$1,000,000 due to the builders of the electric railroad.

Order has been restored in Harti, Trans-

anjan, Population 30,000, Was

Totally Destroyed.

Ashkhabad, Russian Turkistan, Tuesday, December 16.—The town of Andjan, destroyed by an earthquake yesterday. The number of fatalities is not yet ascertained. The population is threatened with starvation. Shacks were felt in New Marghelein and surrounding villages and a railway at Andjan was destroyed for a considerable distance. Food and clothing were sent to Andjan.

Andjan is a town of Russian Central Asia, seventy-three miles from Khoekhand. It has a population of about 30,000 souls.

In a contest for the estate of a negro at Greenville the question of marriage between negroes during slavery is involved.

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The retail merchants of Tyler will act

as a committee to take action toward getting cotton crop records.

A democratic negro is at large in Nacogdoches county.

The attorney general has held that where city poll tax is not due before February 1 voters are not compelled to have receipts.

The oil well conference at Dallas adopted lengthy resolutions calling on the Federal and State governments to make appropriate laws to fight the pest.

There is a slim stand now on the shoulders of the South Texas Cotton Growers' association at Galveston.

Wigginplay was the principal day of the sea wall carnival at Galveston.

At a luncheon on legislators given at Dallas, Neff and Schlueter sat side by side and a number of other members-elect were present.

The Travis county grand jury returned 100 indictments charging graft.

**COMMERCIAL.**

Cotton values declined very slightly under the influence of a few iron men.

There was early interest in stocks on a better feeling regarding Venezuela, but it was wiped out by the selling movement.

The cotton pit was the center of attraction and the St. Louis clique's phone was rapidly snapped.

New York cotton opened steady and January worked up 9 points, but became weak under selling and closed at a decline.

Cotton is in good demand at New Orleans.

Mexican dollars, New York, \$84.

Mr. Clegg declined.

At Mexico City New York exchange premium declined to 15.

**RAILROADS.**

Mr. Steinhardt of New Orleans testified that he could do business better from Galveston than from New Orleans.

The Fort Worth and Denver City has contracted for 200 stock cars.

It is alleged that cattlemen intend to enter suit against the railroads because of difficulty in making shipments.

The California Short Line railroad, capitalized at \$1,250,000, has been incorporated in New Mexico. It will connect the Rock Island system at Alamo Gordo with the Southern Pacific at Deming and the Santa Fe at Las Cruces and Deming.

The California Short Line will make the Rock Island the shortest transcontinental line in America.

**SPORT.**

As a result of Jockey Hick's questionable work in the saddle, the "Iowa Bookmakers' Club" has been ruled off the grounds at New Orleans.

Tillie and Bluff were the only beaten favorites at New Orleans.

English winners: Sol Lichtenstein, Silver, Mureca, Dublance, Ada N. and Byron Edal.

**HOUSTON.**

The South Texas Medical association adjourned to meet in Victoria in June.

Prisoner charged with theft pleaded his own case in the criminal court yesterday, but to no avail.

Justice Marmon heard evidence in inquest of body of Charles Evans.

Major Holt issues orders forbidding acceptance of paving refunding certificates for taxes.

Houston Quartette club gave a smoker at Saengerland hall.

Immediately after the senate met today Mr. Hale called up the urgent deficiency bill and it was passed. It carried \$1,148,400, including \$500,000 to enable the secretary of agriculture to stamp out the foot and mouth disease, which has become epidemic in the New England states. The bill was up for a short time. Mr. Bacon (Ga.) presenting his remarks against the constitutionality of the provision for a reserve force of trained men.

At 2:30 the house adjourned.

**MILLIONS FOR PENSIONS.**

Washington, December 17.—The senate today passed the pension appropriation bill without discussion. It carried \$1,300,847,000. An urgent deficiency bill also was passed.

The amount carried by this bill is \$1,148,400, including an item of \$500,000 to enable the secretary of agriculture to stamp out the foot and mouth disease, which has become epidemic in the New England states.

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**CHINA'S ADULT REVENGE.**

Washington, December 17.—The House adjourned to meet on the 20th last, two sup-

plementary extract clauses in the Boxer indemnity in silver. The reports indicate that China is driven to this course in view of the fact that all her revenues are payable in silver and the great internal strain makes it impossible to obtain gold.

Mr. Gallinger (N. H.) reported the pension appropriation bill, which was passed without